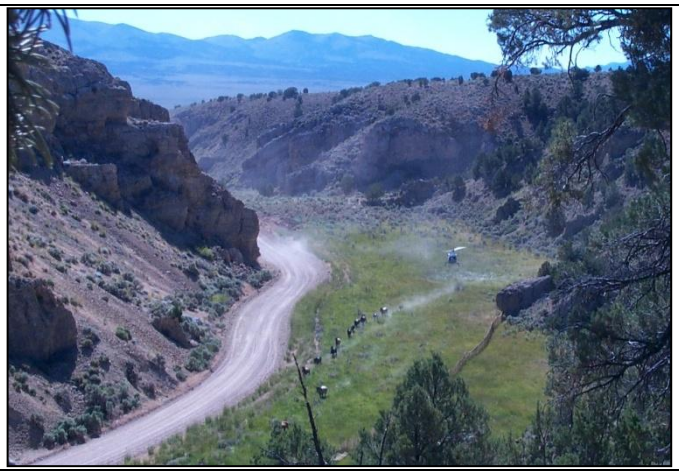
June, 2004. A pre-gather inventory flight shows the rugged terrain typical of the Diamond Range.

June 2004. During a pre-gather inventory flight, a group of wild horses are observed atop the Diamond Range, with signs of agriculture visible in the valley below.



July, 2004 Diamond Complex Gather. The helicopter guides the horses through Railroad Valley into the wings of the trap corrals (seen below)

July, 2004, Diamond Complex Gather. Wild horses in the holding corrals await release back to the range.

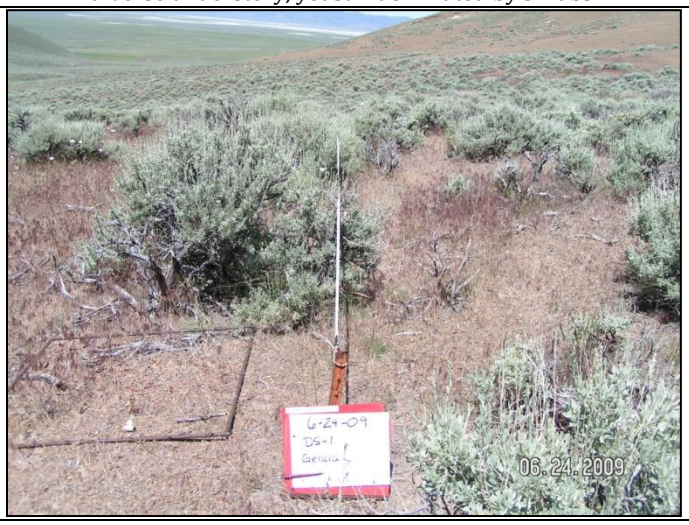
Diamond Complex Gather, July, 2004. Wild horses are pushed into the wings of the trap corrals by helicopter.

July, 2004, Diamond Complex Gather. Wild horses in the holding corrals await release back to the range.

July, 2004, Diamond Complex Gather. Wild horses in the holding corrals await release back to the range.

June, 2009. Some sites in the higher elevations support a more diverse understory, yet still dominated by shrubs.

June, 2009. A monitoring site located in a burn scar supports a heavy understory of cheatgrass, neither a native nor perennial source of forage.



June, 2009. The mid and low elevations are primarily shrub dominated with an understory of cheatgrass commonly present (indicated by the reddish grass).

June, 2009. A typical sagebrush dominated site. Some perennial key species are present here and their progress is being continually monitored.

June, 2009. A higher elevation monitoring site in an old burn scar.

September 2008. An example of one of the steep drainages common to the Diamond Range, photographed during an aerial population inventory.

September 2008, Aerial population inventory. Mid elevation hillsides exhibit signs of old burn scars and may be dominated by cheatgrass or other annual species that do not contribute to perennial forage for wild horses or wildlife.

September 2008, Aerial population inventory. Wild horses are able to traverse the steep and rocky terrain of the Diamond Mountain Range.

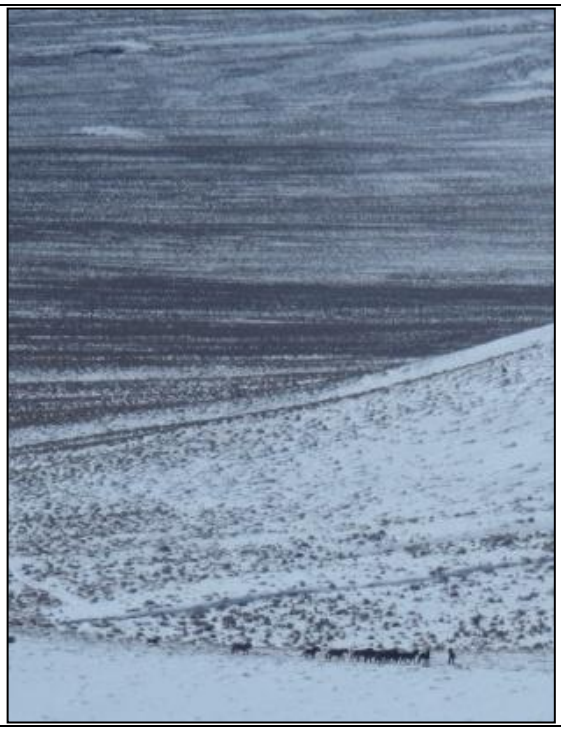
September 2008, Aerial population inventory. The Diamond Valley "playa" defined as: the lower part of an inland desert drainage basin that is periodically filled with alkaline and briny salts washed down by rainwater from surrounding highlands.

February, 2010 Aerial population inventory. The snow typically covers the higher elevations of the Diamond Range in winter.

February, 2010 Aerial population inventory. Wild horses frequently take advantage of south facing slopes free of snow to look for forage.

February, 2010 Aerial population inventory. Wild horses trailing through the snow. Diamond Hills North HMA.

February, 2010, Aerial population inventory. A large portion of the Diamond Hills North HMA was free of snow at the time of the flight, and considerable numbers of wild horses had moved north from the Diamond HMA.

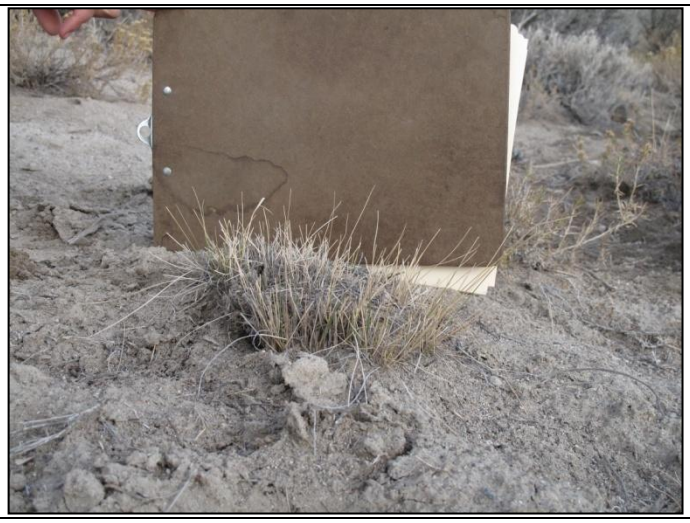


February, 2010 Aerial population inventory. Wild horses trailing through the snow. Outside HMA, Diamond Hills South.

February, 2010. Aerial population inventory. Outside HMA, Diamond Hills South.

February, 2010 Aerial population inventory. Diamond HMA.

October 2010 utilization of Indian Ricegrass.



October 2010 utilization of Indian Ricegrass.

April, 2011, general view at monitoring location.

June, 2010. Substantial presence of cheatgrass (reddish color) in the understory in addition to limited perennial grasses that are still green.

Willow Canyon, June, 2010. Overview of the valley below shows burn scar to the right, covered in curing cheat grass, a shrub dominated plant communitie with interspersed pinyon and juniper in the foreground and the playa in the valley.

April, 2011. General view of the Diamond Range with shrub dominated valley bottom and foothills, with burn scar and annual vegetation on the hills in the background. Wild horses are present at the base of the slope.

April, 2011. Monitoring location on the Diamond HMA.

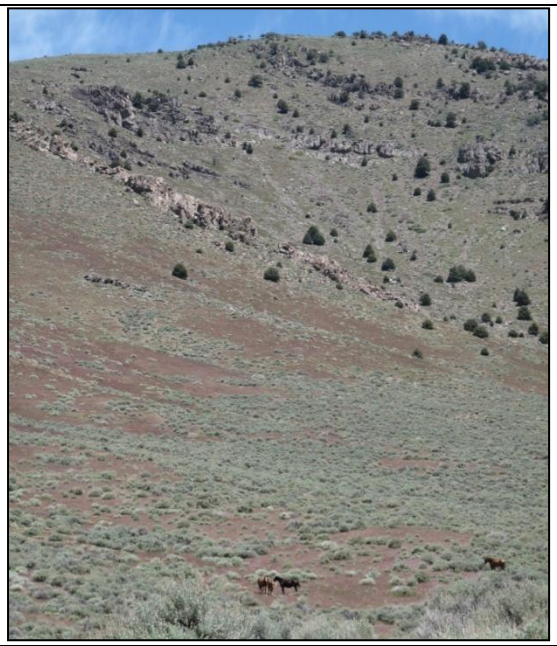
April, 2011. Monitoring location in the Diamond HMA. Note the lack of perennial forage in the interspaces between shrubs.

April, 2011. Monitoring location on the Diamond HMA.

April, 2011. This shrub dominated location supports annual vegetation in the understory, not the desirable perennial forage important for wild horse and wildlife habitat. Note the large "stud pile" to the left and wild horses present in the background on the right.

April, 2011. Wild horses observed in the background at another monitoring location. This site is typical of many locations along the foothills of the Diamond Range, with the presence of Wyoming big sagebrush and limited understory of perennial grasses, invaded by annual species such as cheatgrass.

April 2011. Wild horses graze in a burn scar, finding early emerging cheatgrass and other annuals.



June, 2010. Wild horses observed in the Diamond HMA. Note the red patches of cheatgrass throughout the foothills and middle elevations. Cheatgrass dominated areas do not provide a great deal of quality perennial forage.

June, 2009. Wild horses are congregating in the Three Mille Allotment portion of the Diamond HMA.

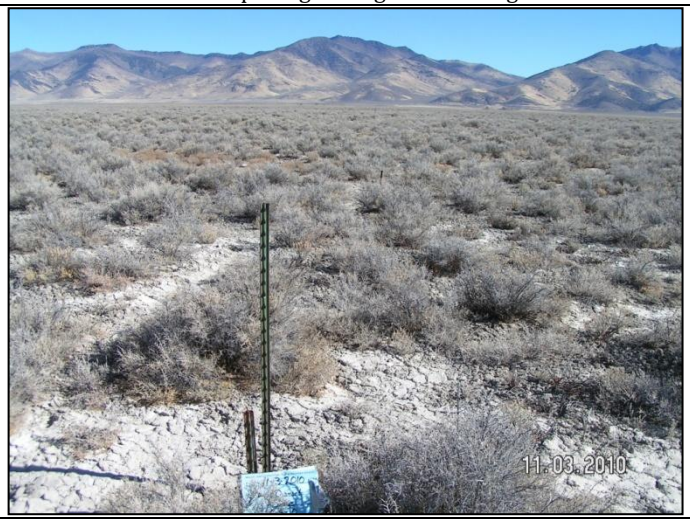
June, 2009. A group of wild horses in the foothills of the Diamond HMA. Note the red patches of cheatgrass dominating the understory.

June, 2006. Wild horses of the Diamond HMA exhibit a variety of colors and are typically healthy in appearance with good body weight despite rugged conditions, harsh winters and depleted perennial forage species in many areas.

June, 2007. Large numbers of wild horses congregating in portions of the Diamond HMA.

June, 2006. The habitat for the horses includes mixed pinyon juniper stands with openings of sagebrush and grasses.

General view Diamond HMA monitoring location, November 2010.



General view Diamond HMA monitoring location, November 2010. Note the bare, cracked soil in the interspaces between shrubs.

June, 2010. A large group of wild horses crosses the road towards the foothills as our vehicle approaches.

June 2010. A large group of wild horses congregating in the Diamond HMA. The dominant vegetation at this location is rabbitbrush and sagebrush.

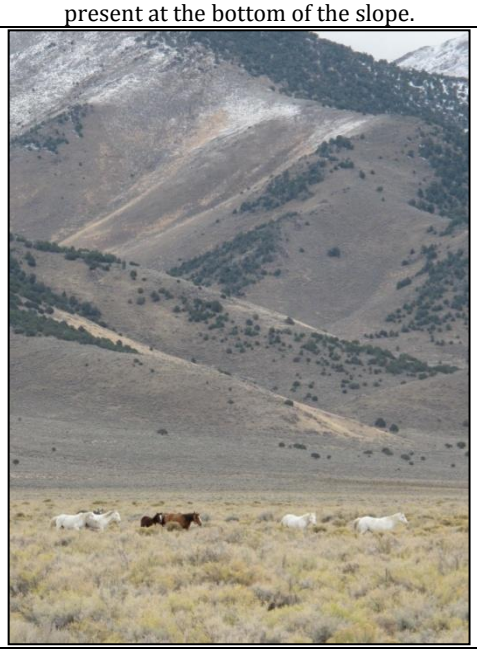
A group of horses in Judd Canyon of the Diamond HMA, June 2010. Note the red patches of cheatgrass in the understory of the shrub dominated vegetation.

A group of horses in Judd Canyon of the Diamond HMA, June 2010. Note the red patches of cheatgrass in the understory of the shrub dominated vegetation.

June, 2010. A large group of wild horses congregates on a burn scar dominated by annual mustard and cheatgrass.

Steep canyons and rocky cliff faces are typical throughout the length of the Diamond Range. In this photo, a small group of horses is present at the bottom of the slope.

April, 2011. The wild horses of the Diamond Range exhibit a variety of interesting color patterns.



October 2010. Wild horses in the Diamond HMA.

October 2010. Wild horses in the Diamond HMA. Private farms are interspersed throughout the lower elevations as seen here in the background.

October 2010. A view of the terrain of the Diamond Range. Wild horses move into these lower elevations as snow falls in the winter.

April, 2011. Indications of heavy wild horse use at this location, shown by utilization of perennial forage, large stud pile, and presence of undesirable annual forage in the understory.

April, 2011. A large group of mule deer congretate with a group of wild horses. The Diamond Range supports large numbers of mule deer and provides important winter habitat.